



BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD MINUTES

October 22, 2010

Present: Bill Williams, Chairman
E J Miller, Member
Amy Huston, Coordinator
Sharon Rose, Staff
Kim Umphres, Staff
Tena O'Brien, County Clerk
Christine Southard, County Clerk's Office
Tom Sissom, Press

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TENA O'BRIEN
CO & PROBATE CLERK
BENTON COUNTY, AR

Also present were Leigh and Chris Nogy, Vane Ueal, Mike Sevak, Joy McAnally, Dan Douglas, Judd Deere, Jeff Bogue, Dwayne Neal, and Vickey Boozman.

The media was notified and Tom Sissom of the Benton County Daily record attended.

Chairman Bill Williams called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Williams stated since Bob Balfe was not present, the approval of the October 8, 2010 minutes would be at the next meeting. EJ Miller had objections from the previous meeting. Williams said Miller could object after Balfe approves the minutes.

Miller asked for the floor stating he was disturbed with the agenda, old business, and new business. He stated there was no paper trail on items that were previously discussed. Miller has concerns about the Siloam Springs billing and the plane flight. He stated if ES&S was at fault in delaying media to the Election Commission, then ES&S should pay the bill. Miller stated that he would like the agenda to show all unfinished business items. Williams said Miller could place anything on the agenda at anytime.

Mike Sevak, Chairman, Republican Party of Benton County commented on releasing election returns on Election Day. In his opinion, this is detrimental to the media and press. He was in favor of reporting the numbers throughout the night. Dan Douglas and Vickey Boozman agreed with Sevak. Chris Nogy, a concerned voter, stated if all other counties are releasing their numbers and Benton County is not, he would have an issue. But if all other counties are withholding their numbers he would have no problem.

Huston stated Early Voting is going well and election preparations are on track for the November 2, 2010, election. Huston said the Commission staff is waiting on ES&S to return some election devices with problems.

Williams stated there has been a problem with ES&S. ES&S is our only provider. The alternative would be for the Election Commission staff to code and burn the media. With the

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current staffing, consideration should be given to programming our own media. This is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

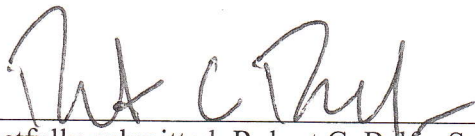
Huston stated the electronic poll-book pilot is going well. Ryan Mack from ES&S will be at the Election Commission office on the 29th to help set-up. Huston and Southard will do training. Williams stated a large amount of monies would be saved with the Electronic Poll-book. ES&S has provided four (4) polling books at no charge for the pilot.

Williams suggested not having interim results. Interim results were in the Primary Election this past Spring. The staff stated it was not working and does not enable them to perform their job with speed and accuracy. Williams stated to his knowledge Washington County does not provide interim results. Williams stated that accuracy is the first priority of the Election Commission. Huston stated that the speed and accuracy would slow down. It is a complicated process and it is important to keep the process flowing smoothly, without stopping and starting. Miller stated in the past, reports were provided at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:00 PM. His option is to continue giving the results at those times. Balfe, through an email to Williams, suggested issuing three (3) reports. One, when absentee and early ballots are complete. Those are ready to report shortly after polls close at 7:30 PM. Another report in the middle and a final report. The reports would only be vote totals only. Miller stood by his comment to have a report at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:00 PM.

Miller stated his concerns about Edison Research and that anything less than 100 ft was opposed. Williams stated that Edison Research is not electioneering and not subject to the 100 foot statute. However, they are required not to interfere with the election process. They will be instructed that they will be at exits and will not influence voters.

Miller stated in his option there has not been a vote on the budget, the Siloam Springs billing issue or the Centerton poll worker situation. Miller said that Williams was doing a disservice to the taxpayers of Benton County and asked for his resignation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 AM. The next meeting will be called at the availability of Commissioner Balfe.



Respectfully submitted, Robert C. Balfe, Secretary

Prepared by Sharon Rose, Benton County Election Commission staff

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